



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

February 22, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan is prepared by Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

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NEWSCAST 1: STUDY INDICATES THAT FLUORIDE-FREE DRINKING WATER IN CALGARY LEADS TO RISE IN TOOTH DECAY IN KIDS



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/tooth-decay-calgary-fluoride-water-1.3450616>

WARM UP

Do you go to the dentist for an annual check up? Why or why not? Do you know what fluoride is? Is fluoride added to your drinking water? Do you think there is a rise in tooth decay? Why or why not?

Facts:

- Sodium fluoride is often added to water or toothpaste to prevent tooth decay.
- Tooth decay refers to deterioration of the outer surface of the tooth due to bacteria.
- Proper oral hygiene practices prevent oral tooth decay.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the first newscast once for overall comprehension. Use the space below to take notes.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to the first newscast again. Read the statements below before listening. While you listen, indicate (v) which statements are true and which ones are false.

STATEMENT	TRUE	FALSE
1. Tooth decay has improved in children in Calgary since the city stopped adding fluoride.		
2. The study compared Grade 2 students in both Calgary and Edmonton.		
3. Edmonton stopped adding fluoride to its drinking water in 2011.		
4. Lindsay McLaren, the researcher said cavities increased during the time of the study.		
5. Tooth decay was more significant in adult teeth than children's teeth.		
6. Megan Heck, head of the Calgary Dental Assistants Association says she's surprised by the findings.		
7. Kids have a high sugary diet in general.		

(See answer key)

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the vocabulary below related to dental visits. Feel free to add words to the list.

- Annual check up
- Follow up visit
- Dentist
- Dental Assistant
- Hygienist
- Teeth cleaning
- Toothache
- Cavity / cavities
- Root canal
- An x-ray / x-rays
- Filling
- Cap
- False tooth
- Plaque
- Tooth decay
- Toothbrush
- Dental floss
- Mouthwash

LANGUAGE FOCUS: DESCRIBING A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Look at the 6 pictures below. Tell the story that the pictures show, starting with picture number 1 and going through picture number 6. Take one minute to look at the pictures and think about the story.



SPEAKING TASK

Now tell the story that the pictures show (60 seconds).

NEWSCAST 2: CUBA VISITORS FACE NEW MEDICAL INSURANCE RULE



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/cuba-visitors-face-new-medical-insurance-rule-1.910444>

WARM UP:

Have you ever been to Cuba? Would you like to go to Cuba? Why or why not? What do you know about Cuba? When you travel, do you purchase supplemental health insurance? Why or why not?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the second newscast once for overall comprehension. Use the space below to take notes.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to the second newscast again. While you listen, fill in the blank with the word that you hear.

Canadians travelling to Cuba will be required to present _____ of health insurance to _____ the country.

Foreign Affairs says in its travel report for the country, "Upon _____, travellers may be required to present an insurance _____, insurance certificate, or medical assistance card _____ for the period of their stay in Cuba. Those who do not have proof of insurance _____ may be required to obtain health insurance from a Cuban insurance company when they arrive."

Foreign Affairs stated Provincial health insurance _____ do not provide direct coverage for out-of-country _____ medical services. Provincial plans may cover only part of the costs and will not pay the _____ up front as Cuba requires. The department says, "It is therefore recommended that travellers purchase _____ health insurance."

Canadian _____ carrying only provincial government health insurance cards will have to pay Cuban hospitals, doctors or other providers in _____ at the time of treatment and then _____ reimbursement from their provincial plans, which normally cover only a _____ of the charges. Foreign Affairs notes some private insurers also require the traveller to pay costs up front to then be reimbursed later.

(See answer key)

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS

Have you or anyone you know had to make an insurance claim for out-of-country medical service? Describe the situation. Did their insurance plan pay for these services upon their return?

NEWSCAST 3: SYRIAN AID WORKERS RISK DANGERS TO HELP PEOPLE SURVIVE



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/syria-turkey-humanitarian-aid-1.3452114>

WARM UP

Look at the title. What is an aid worker? What does “to risk” mean? What dangers do you think aid workers face? Would you do this job? Why or why not?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the vocabulary below. Match the word or expression with the correct definition.

#	WORD	DEFINITION
6	climb into	1. unfriendly; antagonistic
	airstrikes	2. continue to live in spite of danger or hardship
	hostile	3. dangerous; hazardous
	checkpoint	4. suffer the consequences of your actions
	risky	5. goods and equipment; provisions; rations; food
	vital	6. to get into
	survive	7. injured
	struggle	8. absolutely necessary or important; essential
	rely on	9. dispute; disagreement; battle; war; fight
	supplies	10. intent on; set on; insistent on; committed to; single-minded about
	pay a high price	11. an attack made by an aircraft
	despite	12. without being affected by; in spite of
	wounded	13. be dependent on
	conflict	14. a barrier or manned entrance, typically at a border, where travelers are subject to security checks
	determined	15. make one's way with difficulty

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the third newscast once for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen again. While you listen, fill in the blank with the word that you hear.

Every time Mohamed Jimon _____ into his truck he knows danger is ahead. He says, whether it is holes in the highway from _____ or the threat of a hostile _____, his job as a truck driver delivering emergency aid to communities in Syria is risky but _____. He says, "It is important for the hungry people of Syria so that they have something to eat, so they can _____."

Relief organizations have _____ to offer assistance to those affected by Syria's long war, which the UN says has left at least 250,000 people dead. But aid agencies, often _____ on Syrian staff, have continued to deliver food, medicine and other supplies, often at great risk to the personal safety of the local employees.

Health-care workers in Syria have also _____ a high price for trying to heal those injured in the _____. According to a September 2015 report by the World Health Organization, 654 Syrian medical workers have been killed since the start of the war five years ago.

Despite the risks, however, doctors and nurses continue to treat the _____, even after a number of attacks earlier this week on four medical facilities in northern Syria that left nearly 50 people dead, including health-care workers.

And those UN convoys continue to roll across the Turkish-Syrian border, with _____ drivers behind the wheels. Jimon says, "It's difficult. Sometimes I think death would be easier but we have to continue. It's too important. We cannot stop."

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. I'm Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC.	0:00
<i>Newscast 1</i> <i>Study indicates that fluoride-free drinking water in Calgary leads to rise in tooth decay in kids</i>	<p>Tooth decay in children in Calgary has worsened since the city stopped adding fluoride to drinking water in 2011. That's according to a new study. The study compared Grade 2 students in Calgary and Edmonton as Edmonton still adds fluoride to its drinking water.</p> <p>Lindsay McLaren, the researcher with the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine who led the study, told CBC Calgary that there were more cavities in both Calgary and Edmonton over the period of the study, but "it got worse in Calgary, where fluoridation was stopped."</p> <p>She told CBC, "We designed the study so we could be sure that [the increased tooth decay] was due to [fluoride] cessation rather than due to other factors."</p> <p>McLaren said the tooth decay increase found in her study is more significant in children's baby teeth than in adult teeth, and she added there is a need to continue to monitor the trend.</p> <p>Meagan Heck, the head of the Calgary Dental Assistants Association and who also works in a dentist's office, says she's not surprised by the findings of the study. Heck said, "...kids don't brush their teeth regularly as it is and have a high sugary diet. Without fluoridation cavities get larger really quickly."</p>	0:08

<p>Newscast 2</p> <p><i>Cuba visitors face new medical insurance rule</i></p>	<p>Canadians travelling to Cuba will be required to present proof of health insurance to enter the country.</p> <p>Foreign Affairs says in its travel report for the country, "Upon arrival, travellers may be required to present an insurance policy, insurance certificate, or medical assistance card valid for the period of their stay in Cuba. Those who do not have proof of insurance coverage may be required to obtain health insurance from a Cuban insurance company when they arrive."</p> <p>Foreign Affairs stated Provincial health insurance plans do not provide direct coverage for out-of-country emergency medical services. Provincial plans may cover only part of the costs and will not pay the bill up front as Cuba requires. The department says, "It is therefore recommended that travellers purchase supplemental health insurance."</p> <p>Canadian visitors carrying only provincial government health insurance cards will have to pay Cuban hospitals, doctors or other providers in full at the time of treatment and then seek reimbursement from their provincial plans, which normally cover only a fraction of the charges. Foreign Affairs notes some private insurers also require the traveller to pay costs up front to then be reimbursed later.</p>	<p>1:51</p>
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<p>Newscast 3</p> <p><i>Syrian aid workers risk dangers to help people survive</i></p>	<p>Every time Mohamed Jimon climbs into his truck he knows danger is ahead. He says, whether it is holes in the highway from airstrikes or the threat of a hostile checkpoint, his job as a truck driver delivering emergency aid to communities in Syria is risky but vital. He says, "It is important for the hungry people of Syria so that they have something to eat, so they can survive."</p> <p>Relief organizations have struggled to offer assistance to those affected by Syria's long war, which the UN says has left at least 250,000 people dead. But aid agencies, often relying on Syrian staff, have continued to deliver food, medicine and other supplies, often at great risk to the personal safety of the local employees.</p> <p>Health-care workers in Syria have also paid a high price for trying to heal those injured in the conflict. According to a September 2015 report by the World Health Organization, 654 Syrian medical workers have been killed since the start of the war five years ago.</p> <p>Despite the risks, however, doctors and nurses continue to treat the wounded, even after a number of attacks earlier this week on four medical facilities in northern Syria that left nearly 50 people dead, including health-care workers.</p> <p>And those UN convoys continue to roll across the Turkish-Syrian border, with determined drivers behind the wheels. Jimon says, "It's difficult. Sometimes I think death would be easier but we have to continue. It's too important. We cannot stop."</p>	<p>3:34</p>
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ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1: STUDY INDICATES THAT FLOURIDE-FREE DRINKING WATER IN CALGARY LEADS TO RISE IN TOOTH DECAY IN KIDS

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

STATEMENT	TRUE	FALSE
1. Tooth decay has improved in children in Calgary since the city stopped adding fluoride.		✓
2. The study compared Grade 2 students in both Calgary and Edmonton.	✓	
3. Edmonton stopped adding fluoride to its drinking water in 2011.		✓
4. Lindsay McLaren, the researcher said cavities increased during the time of the study.	✓	
5. Tooth decay was more significant in adult teeth than children's teeth.		✓
6. Meagan Heck, head of the Calgary Dental Assistants Association says she's surprised by the findings.		✓
7. Kids have a high sugary diet in general.	✓	

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2: CUBA VISITORS FACE NEW MEDICAL INSURANCE RULE

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Canadians travelling to Cuba will be required to present **proof** of health insurance to **enter** the country.

Foreign Affairs says in its travel report for the country, "Upon **arrival**, travellers may be required to present an insurance **policy**, insurance certificate, or medical assistance card **valid** for the period of their stay in Cuba. Those who do not have proof of insurance **coverage** may be required to obtain health insurance from a Cuban insurance company when they arrive."

Foreign Affairs stated Provincial health insurance **plans** do not provide direct coverage for out-of-country **emergency** medical services. Provincial plans may cover only part of the costs and will not pay the **bill** up front as Cuba requires. The department says, "It is therefore recommended that travellers purchase **supplemental** health insurance."

Canadian **visitors** carrying only provincial government health insurance cards will have to pay Cuban hospitals, doctors or other providers in **full** at the time of treatment and then **seek** reimbursement from their provincial plans, which normally cover only a **fraction** of the charges. Foreign Affairs notes some private insurers also require the traveller to pay costs up front to then be reimbursed later.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3: SYRIAN AID WORKERS RISK DANGERS TO HELP PEOPLE SURVIVE

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

#	WORD	DEFINITION
6	climb into	1. unfriendly; antagonistic
11	airstrikes	2. continue to live in spite of danger or hardship
1	hostile	3. dangerous; hazardous
14	checkpoint	4. suffer the consequences of your actions
3	risky	5. goods and equipment; provisions; rations; food
8	vital	6. to get into
2	survive	7. injured
15	struggle	8. absolutely necessary or important; essential
13	rely on	9. dispute; disagreement; battle; war; fight
5	supplies	10. intent on; set on; insistent on; committed to; single-minded about
4	pay a high price	11. an attack made by an aircraft
12	despite	12. without being affected by; in spite of
7	wounded	13. be dependent on
9	conflict	14. a barrier or manned entrance, typically at a border, where travelers are subject to security checks
10	determined	15. make one's way with difficulty

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Every time Mohamed Jimon **climbs** into his truck he knows danger is ahead. He says, whether it is holes in the highway from **airstrikes** or the threat of a hostile **checkpoint**, his job as a truck driver delivering emergency aid to communities in Syria is risky but **vital**. He says, "It is important for the hungry people of Syria so that they have something to eat, so they can **survive**."

Relief organizations have **struggled** to offer assistance to those affected by Syria's long war, which the UN says has left at least 250,000 people dead. But aid agencies, often **relying** on Syrian staff, have continued to deliver food, medicine and other supplies, often at great risk to the personal safety of the local employees.

Health-care workers in Syria have also **paid** a high price for trying to heal those injured in the **conflict**. According to a September 2015 report by the World Health Organization, 654 Syrian medical workers have been killed since the start of the war five years ago.

Despite the risks, however, doctors and nurses continue to treat the **wounded**, even after a number of attacks earlier this week on four medical facilities in northern Syria that left nearly 50 people dead, including health-care workers.

And those UN convoys continue to roll across the Turkish-Syrian border, with **determined** drivers behind the wheels. Jimon says, "It's difficult. Sometimes I think death would be easier but we have to continue. It's too important. We cannot stop."

Thank you for using Learning English with CBC. If you have any questions or comments, please email info@communication4integration.ca